



62 FEB 00

# STARMAN

## GRAND GUIGNOL #1



ROBINSON · SNEJBÆRG



PARC TALMAGE RESTS UPON A SAD ENVELOPE  
OF COMFORT. IT ALWAYS HAS.

SAD BECAUSE OF ITS STILLNESS. SAD  
BECAUSE OF THE WILLOWS, PLANTED BY  
EDITH TALMAGE, A SAD BUT OH SO  
WEALTHY WIDOW IN THE LAST DAYS OF  
THE LAST CENTURY, NOW RISING UP TO  
ALL SIDES SLEEPY AND FRAIL IN THE WAY  
WILLOWS ARE. AND SAD.

BUT COMFORTABLE, TOO. THIS  
SQUARE AFTER ALL IS A PLACE  
WHERE THE RICH ONCE LIVED.

THE PARC IS GREEN, A PLACE  
WHERE THE RICH ONES' NANNIES  
MIND THEIR CHILDREN, WHILE THEY  
ARE AWAY GETTING RICHER STILL.

THE CARRIAGE HOUSES THAT  
SURROUND THIS GREENERY ARE  
ALL THE SAME COLOR. THE  
BRICKS A DEEP LOBSTER RED.  
THIS WAS HOW IT LOOKED IN THE  
TIME OF DEAR, DEAD EDITH  
AND HOW THE PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY THAT ABIDES BY SUCH  
MATTERS HAS IT STILL.

AND SO PARC TALMAGE IS LIKE  
A STOLEN MOMENT FROM TIMES  
PAST. A STOLEN PLACE.

NOT THAT IT MATTERS.

IN THE PRESENT, IN THE  
NOW... PARC TALMAGE  
IS NO MORE.

IT'S GONE.

BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS BY  
FORCES UNKNOWN. THE RICH,  
THOSE AT HOME WHEN THE  
EXPLOSIONS GREETED THIS  
PLACE, ARE DEAD, DESERV-  
ING THEIR FATE NO MORE  
THAN THE POOR WHO DIED  
IN THE STREETS AROUND THEM.

BUT THIS IS THE PAST.  
THIS IS WEEKS GONE.

WHEN MYSTERIES DEEPENED  
AND STRANGERS LOOKED  
FOR CLUES.

WHEN JACK KNIGHT  
STILL JOURNEYED  
STARWARD.

THIS WAS THEN...

# ...AND WHAT WENT BEFORE.

## Grand Guignol Premiere Partie

Robinson	Snejbjerg	Oakley	Wright	Famison	Williams	Tomasi	Goodwin
writer	artist	letterer	colorist	separator	asst. editor	editor	guiding light



IN THOSE WEEKS GONE  
BY OF DEEPENING  
MYSTERY AND STRANGE  
HUNTERS...

CRIME IS NO  
STRANGER.

AND CRIMES SUCH AS THEY ARE,  
THE KIND COMMITTED ON  
WEALTHY ENCLAVES LIKE PARC  
TALMAGE, REQUIRE ATTEN-  
TION FROM THOSE WHO  
WOULD COUNTER THEM.

IN THIS CASE, TWO OF THE  
AFOREMENTIONED OPAL  
STRANGERS.

HEADS  
UP!

COUPLE  
OF THEM HAVE  
SLUGS THEY WANT  
TO WASTE.





ONE HERO  
STRETCHES...

... PONDER'S DEEPLY ON  
THE UNEXPLAINED,  
AND WHO...

... KNOWING THE DARKNESS IN MEN'S  
HEARTS, DETERMINES TO SHINE ALL THE  
BRIGHTER FOR IT, AND DENY THAT  
DARKNESS FROM HIS OWN.

THIS MAN LAUGHS,  
SO HE MIGHT NOT  
CRY.



MY KIND OF  
SLUGS, ON THE  
OTHER HAND,  
RARELY GET  
WASTED.

IF THE OTHER  
HERO LAUGHS  
AT ALL, NO  
ONE HAS EVER  
SEEN HIM.

HE TOO KNOWS THE DARKNESS IN  
MEN'S HEARTS... AND IN HIS OWN...  
AND YET IT BEATS WITH A GOOD-  
NESS LOUDER AND CLEARER  
THAN MOST.



IF NOT THE  
BRIGHTER.









HOW DID YOU STUMBLE  
ONTO THESE BURGLARS?

I WAS FLYING  
BY. THAT'S WHAT  
I DO. YOU?

I WAS FOLLOWING CLUES.  
THAT'S WHAT I DO.

I WAS IN THE PROCESS  
OF LEARNING ABOUT  
WHISPERS, WHEN I GOT  
A TIP THAT ONE OF THE  
HOUSES IN THIS GREEN WAS  
BEING HIT.



WHISPERS?

OPAL VILLAINS  
IN HIDING. IN  
PREPARATION.



SOMETHING BIG  
BREWING.

YOU'VE  
HEARD  
THINGS,  
TOO?

IT DOESN'T  
TAKE A DETECTIVE  
OF YOUR STATURE TO  
KNOW SOMETHING  
HERE IN OPAL CITY  
IS AWRY.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO NEXT?

EVEN WITH THE  
CITY'S PRIMARY VILLAINS  
AWAY, THERE ARE STILL  
FOOLS LIKE THESE TO BE  
CAUGHT. PETTY THUGS.  
BURGLARS.

WITH STARMAN  
GONE, THERE'S STILL  
WORK FOR SUCH AS I.





BUT I AM NOT  
A SLEUTH. IF THERE ARE  
CLUES TO BE FOUND AND  
SOLVED, I THINK YOU'RE  
THE ONE TO FIND  
THEM.

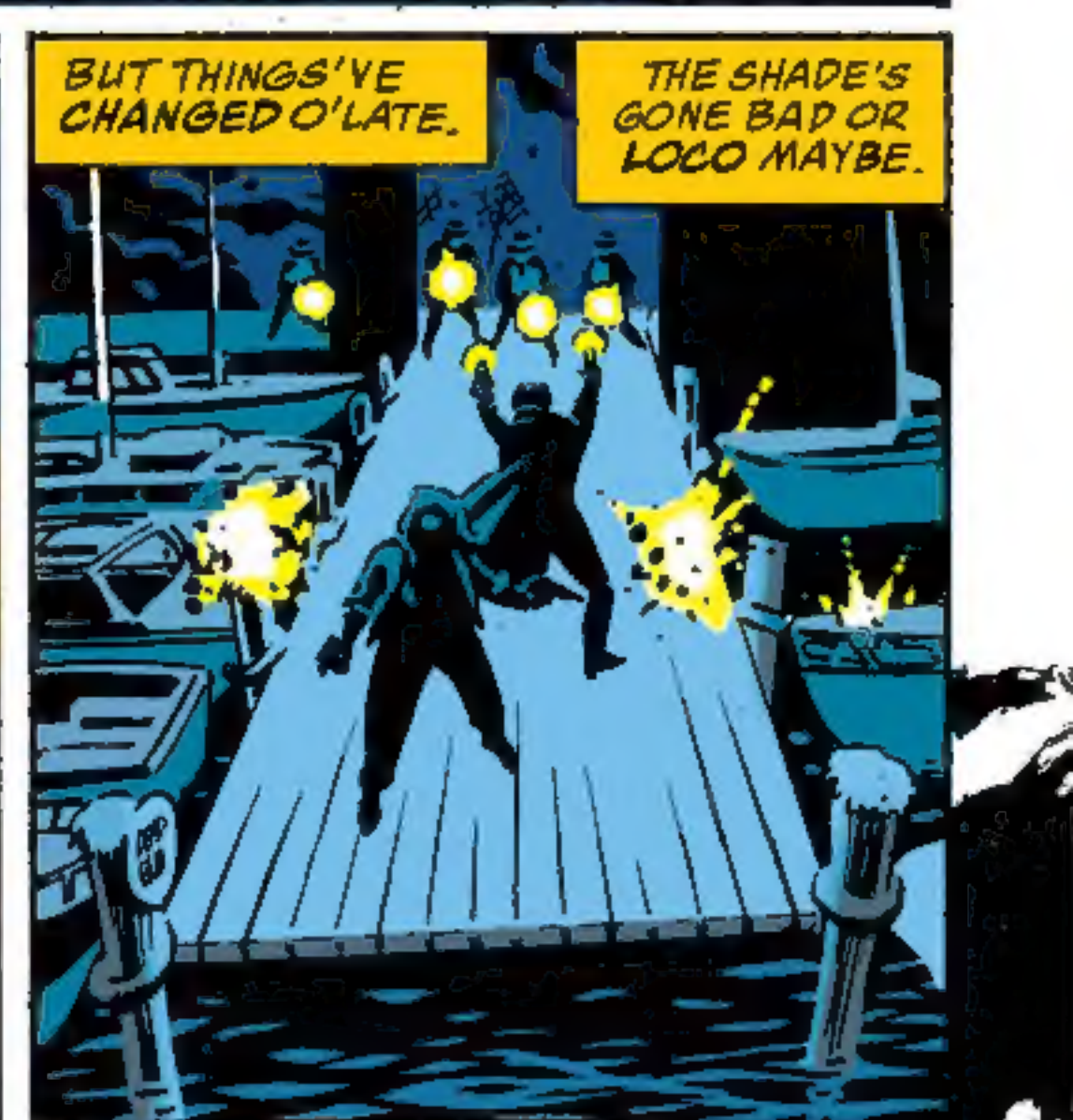
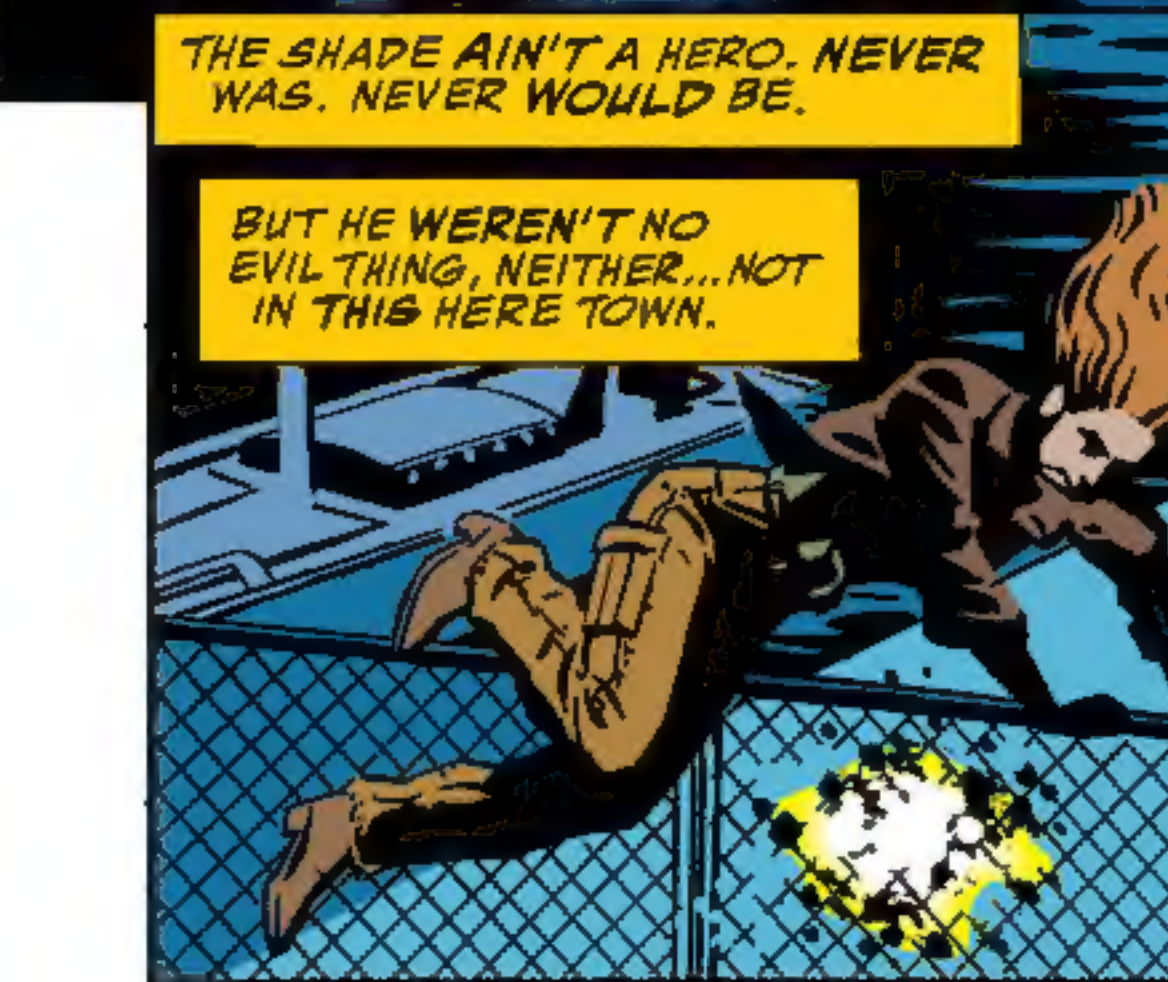


BUT WE'LL SEE  
EACH OTHER AGAIN,  
RIGHT?

AGREED.











THE SHADE'S GONE.

HE'S HIRED HISSELF HOMBRES  
TO KEEP HIM GONE.

AND MATT O'DARE IS ANGRY.



HOPE O'DARE  
IS SIMPLY SAD.



KLIK  
KLIK

KLIK KLIK



I'M  
OUT.

ME,  
TOO.



WELL,  
AIN'T THAT  
TOO BAD.



AIN'T  
THAT A  
CRYING  
SH--



ZZZAAPP!





I GIVE UP,  
SIS. WHAT IN  
HELL JUST  
HAPPENED?

YOU GOT ME.  
WHO WAS THAT?  
DID HE JUST USE  
A RAY GUN TO  
KNOCK THOSE  
GUYS OUT?

ADAM STRANGE, MAN OF TWO  
WORLDS, HAS NO TIME TO WASTE  
WITH ANSWERS.

IF WHAT HE BELIEVES IS TRUE...

... IF WHAT HE BELIEVES  
WILL HAPPEN NEXT...

... HE MUST PREPARE.



THE OPAL CITY  
STARMAN  
MUSEUM...

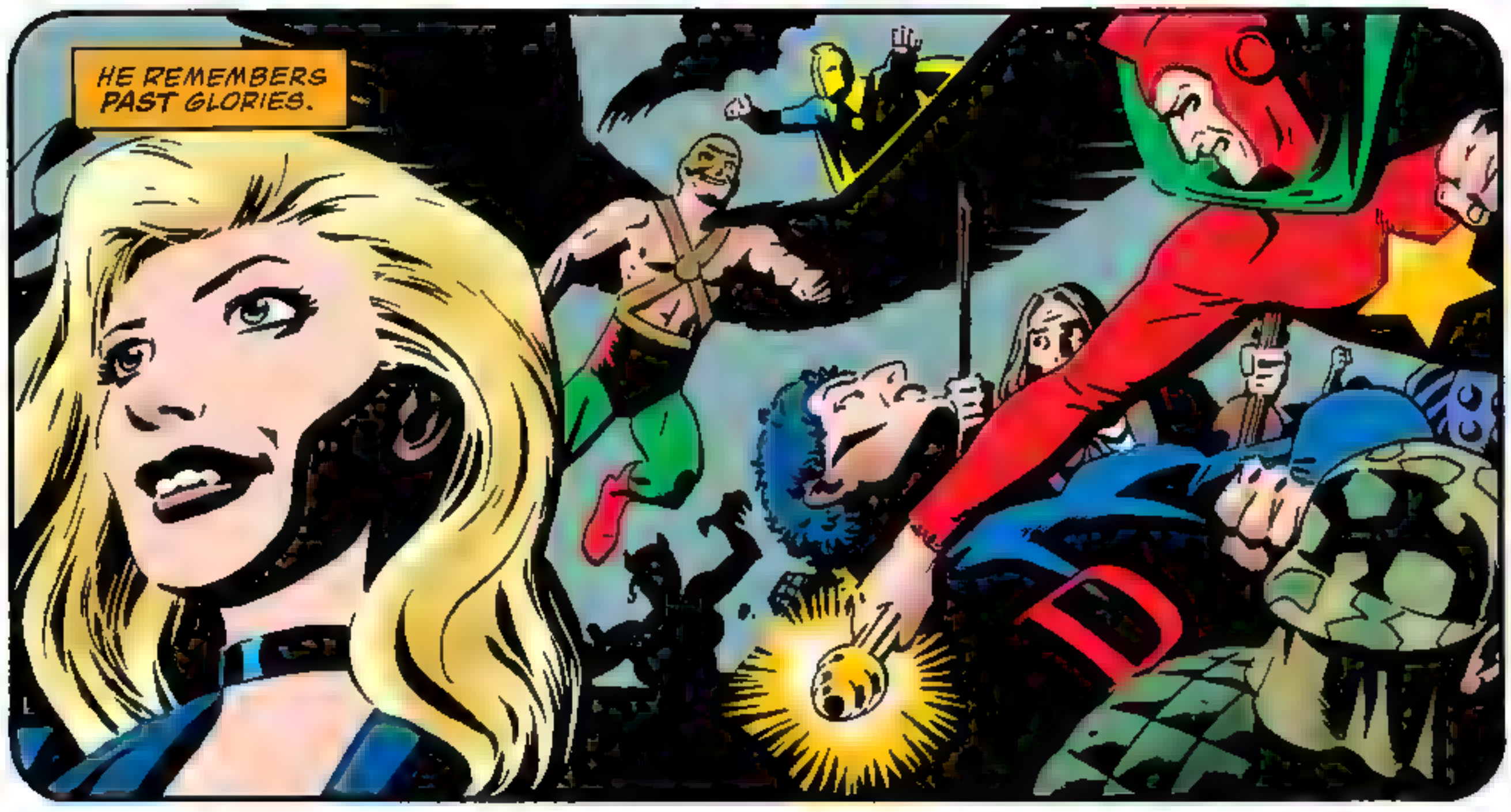
...WHERE TED  
KNIGHT  
REMEMBERS...



... WELCOME TO  
THE JUSTICE SOCIETY  
OF AMERICA, STARMAN



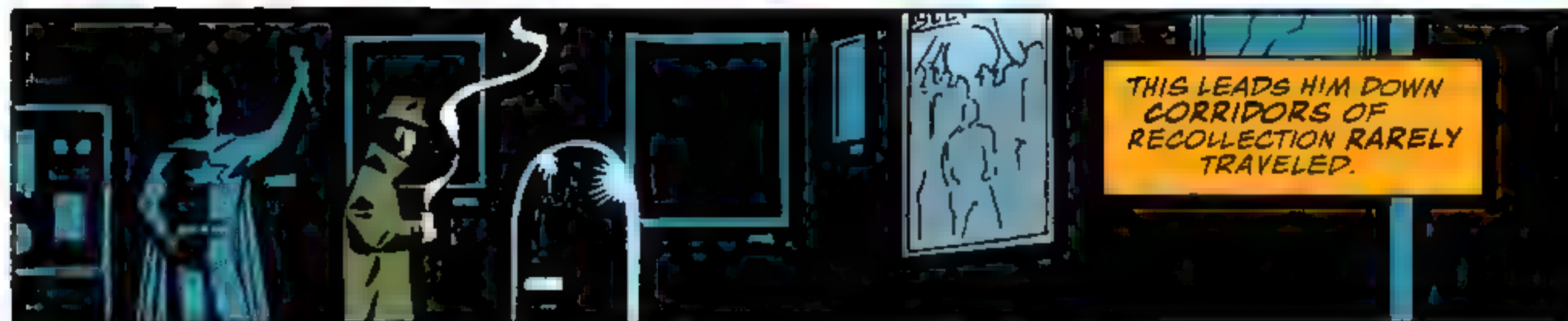
HE REMEMBERS  
PAST GLORIES.







...TED RECALLS THIS WAS SOMETHING THE SHADE ENJOYED. AN ASPECT OF OPAL CITY HE TOOK PRIDE IN.



THIS LEADS HIM DOWN CORRIDORS OF RECOLLECTION RARELY TRAVELED.

WAS THIS AN ADVENTURE OF THE JSA? IT COULD HAVE BEEN... CERTAINLY SOME OF THOSE THERE WERE.



BUT IT WAS LATE IN THE TEAM'S FIRST DECADE...

...AND NOTHING THEN WAS FOR SURE.



THE SHADE WAS AMONG  
THOSE THEY FOUGHT. HE  
SEEMED EVER THE BLACK  
VILLAIN...

BUT FOR THAT  
ONE MOMENT...



JOHNNY THUNDER NEVER  
SAW. HE NEVER KNEW.

THE SHADE COULD HAVE  
ENDED THE THREAT OF  
MAGIC THUNDERBOLTS  
FOREVER.

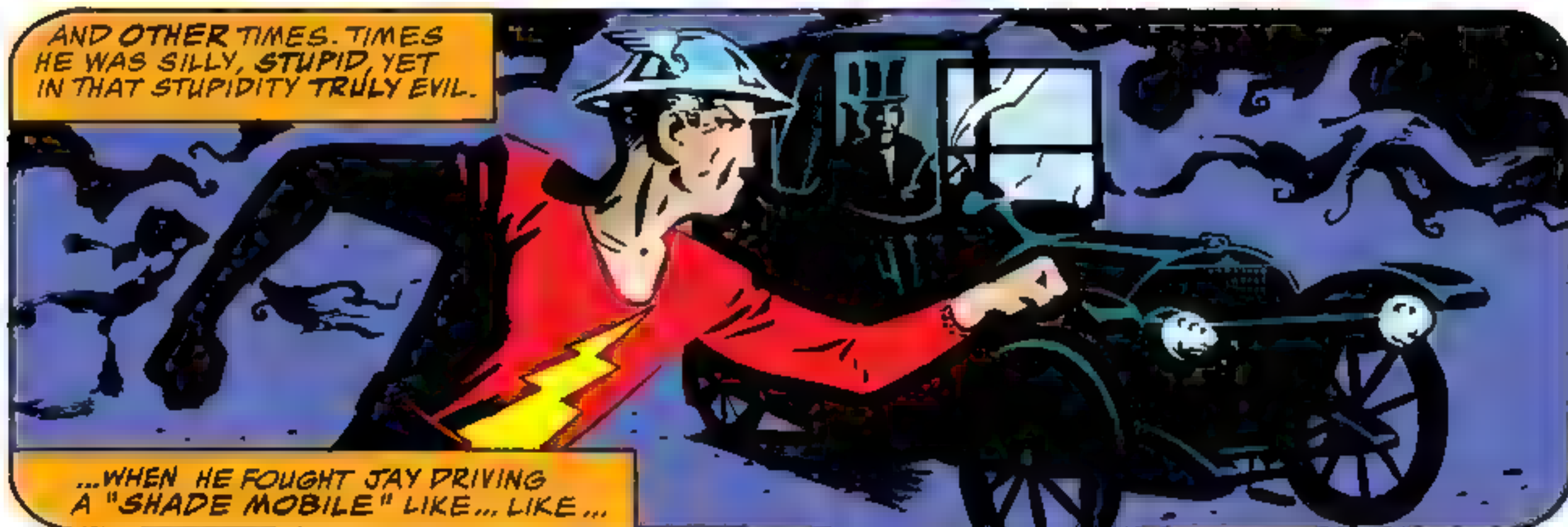


INSTEAD HE TURNED TO FACE  
AN OLD FRIEND AND FIGHT, NOT  
WITH LETHAL SHADOW WRAITHS,  
BUT RATHER TOYS.

HE COULD HAVE BEEN THE KILLER.  
THEN HE APPEARS TO BE NOW.



AND OTHER TIMES. TIMES  
HE WAS SILLY, STUPID, YET  
IN THAT STUPIDITY TRULY EVIL.



...WHEN HE FOUGHT JAY DRIVING  
A "SHADE MOBILE" LIKE... LIKE...



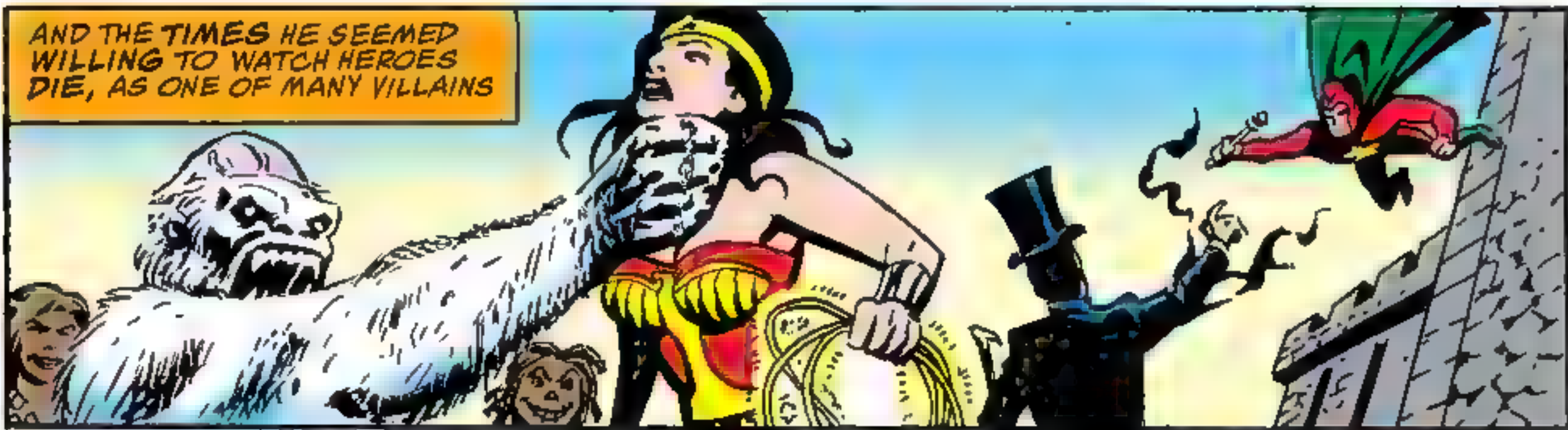
... WATERED-  
DOWN CHARLES  
ADDAMS.



STUPID, AND YET  
AT THAT SAME TIME  
HE PLANNED TO  
DESTROY THE WORLD.



AND THE TIMES HE SEEMED  
WILLING TO WATCH HEROES  
DIE, AS ONE OF MANY VILLAINS



THE DIFFERENCES...THE  
MANY FACES OF ONE BEING.

ALWAYS A SUPER-VILLAIN,  
GRANTED, BUT STILL--

MADDENING.

OR SIMPLY  
MAD.



HE LOOKS AT HIS  
COFFEE. THE CUP  
SHAKES. FEAR OR  
AN OLD MAN'S  
FIRST AWARENESS  
OF HIS OWN  
PALSY?

THE THOUGHT THAT  
ACCOMPANIES IT  
LINGERS SOURLY.

PERHAPS  
THE SHADE IS  
MAD.







THANK YOU FOR MEETING ME.

I WAS WARY, I CONFESS. BUT--

OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR MENTOR, HOW COULD I REFUSE?



SHE'S A WONDERFUL WOMAN.

SANDRA KNIGHT, THE ORIGINAL PHANTOM LADY. YES, SHE IS. AND SOMEONE WHO CARES FOR YOU DEEPLY, DESPITE LONG YEARS WITHOUT A WORD FROM YOU.

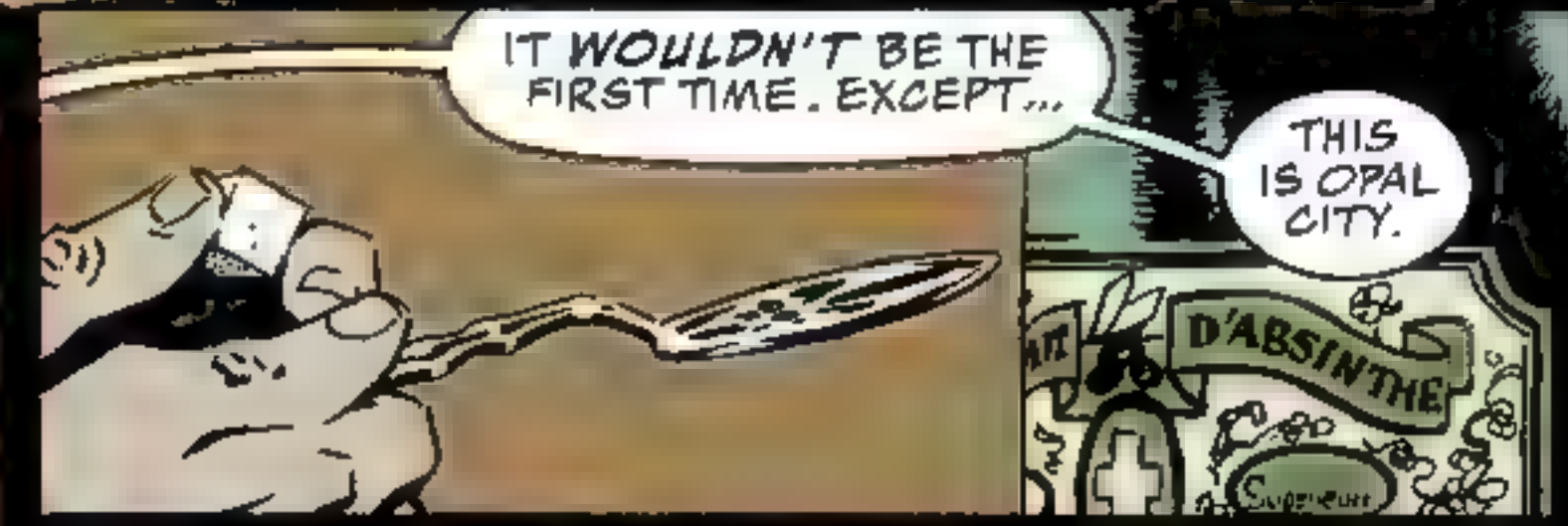
YES, WELL... AS EVER, I GO MY OWN WAY.

IT'S OUT OF RESPECT THAT SHE SENT ME HERE TO INVESTIGATE THE ACCUSATIONS LEVELED AGAINST YOU.



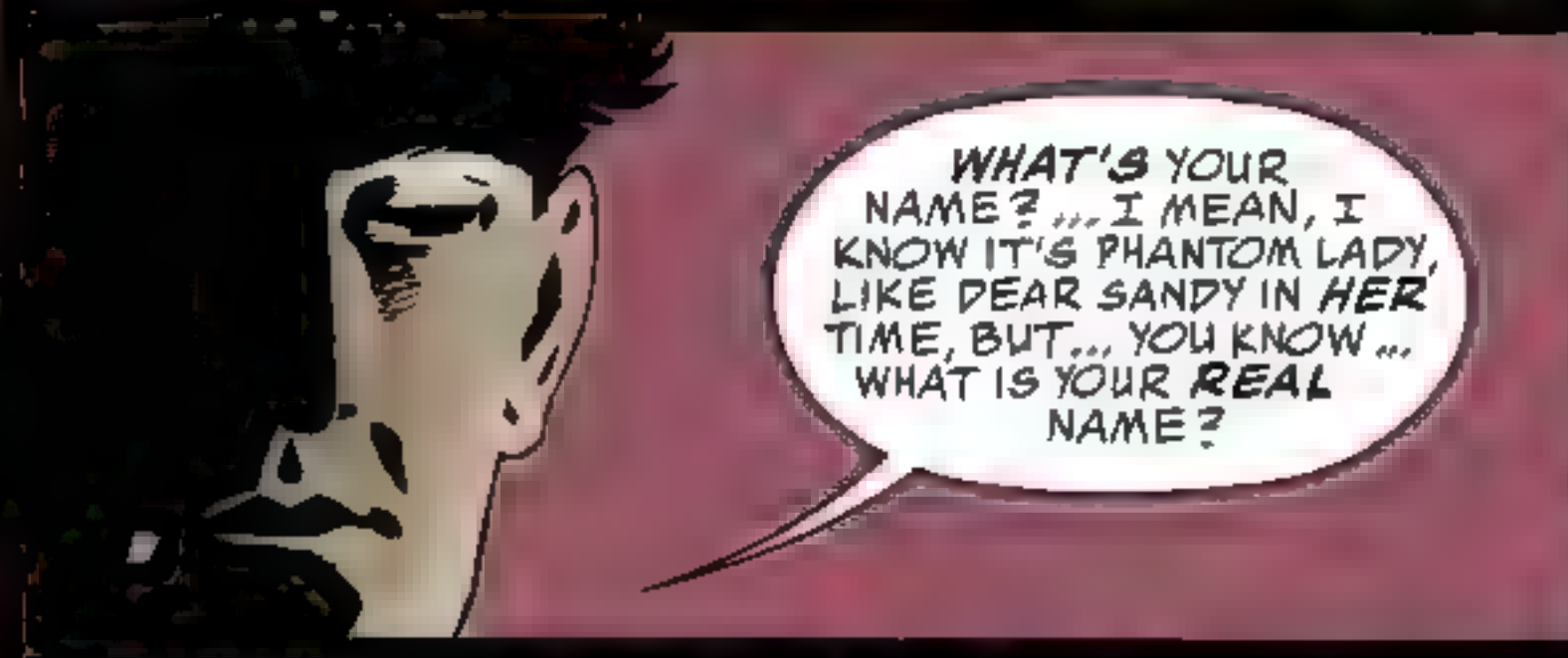
I FEEL POSITIVELY BLESSED TO HAVE YOU.

GET SERIOUS, SHADE. YOU'RE WANTED FOR MURDER.



IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME. EXCEPT...

THIS IS OPAL CITY.



WHAT'S YOUR NAME? ... I MEAN, I KNOW IT'S PHANTOM LADY, LIKE DEAR SANDY IN HER TIME, BUT... YOU KNOW... WHAT IS YOUR REAL NAME?



DELILAH TYLER. DEE... MY FRIENDS... ALMOST EVERYONE CALLS ME DEE.

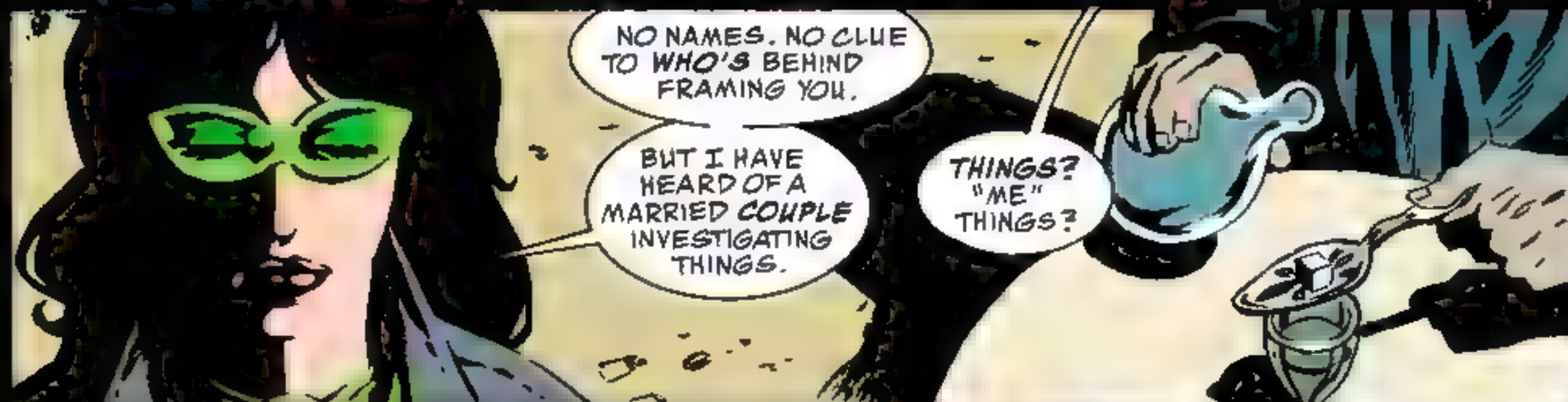
TYLER, YOU SAY? ARE YOU RELATED TO REX TYLER, IN THE WAY SANDY WAS RELATED TO TED KNIGHT?





UM... I THINK  
MAYBE. BUT IT'S  
A DISTANT LINK,  
IF ANY.

WHAT  
HAVE YOU UN-  
COVERED?



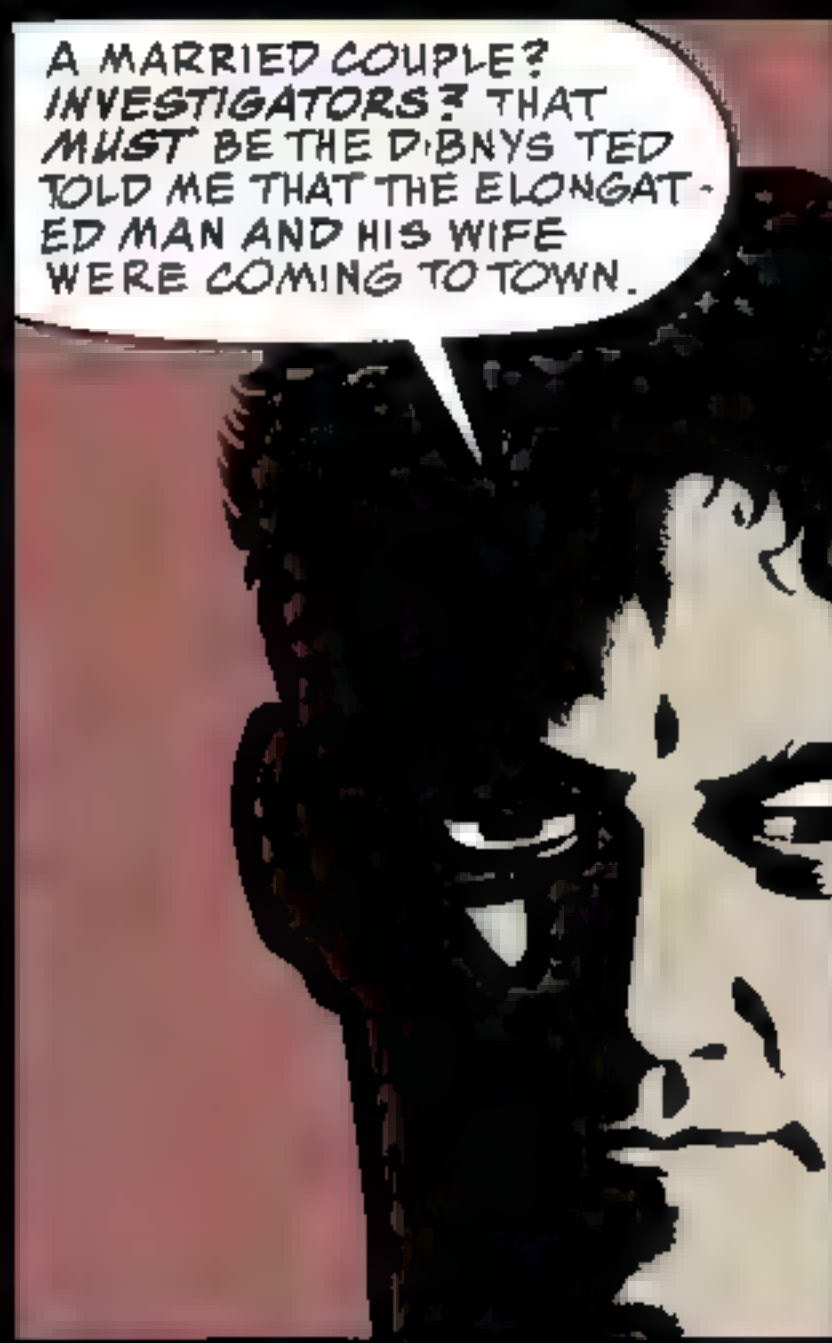
NO NAMES. NO CLUE  
TO WHO'S BEHIND  
FRAMING YOU.

BUT I HAVE  
HEARD OF A  
MARRIED COUPLE  
INVESTIGATING  
THINGS.

THINGS?  
"ME"  
THINGS?



I'M NOT SURE. THINGS.  
THEY'VE BEEN ASKING SCHOLARS  
...THEOLOGISTS AND ARCAINE  
SCHOLARS AND *SUCH*... ABOUT  
THE "GHOSTS OF THE LONG  
DEAD."



A MARRIED COUPLE?  
INVESTIGATORS? THAT  
*MUST* BE THE DIBNYS TED  
TOLD ME THAT THE ELONGAT-  
ED MAN AND HIS WIFE  
WERE COMING TO TOWN.



ARE YOU *SURE*? NOT  
ONE WORD SPOKE OF THE  
MAN STRETCHING.

WHO  
ELSE COULD  
IT BE?



WE'LL MEET HERE *AGAIN*  
IN A WEEK. *PERHAPS* ONE  
OR THE OTHER OF US WILL  
KNOW *MORE*.

PERHAPS.  
A WEEK.





SADIE FALK AND THE GHOST OF THE BLACK PIRATE SEEK ANSWERS, TOO. ANSWERS OF THEIR OWN, AND NOT ABOUT OPAL AND DOINGS IN THE HERE AND NOW...

... BUT RATHER TIMES PAST... WHEN VALOR SWUNG FOR HIS SON'S DEATH. WHEN HE CURSED THIS LAND AND WALKS THE CITY TO THIS DAY AS PART OF THAT UTTERANCE... DOOMED TO DO SO UNTIL HE FINDS PROOF OF HIS OWN INNOCENCE.

YOU THINK NOT?

IT WASN'T SO HARD, REALLY... ALL THIS HUNTING WE'VE DONE.





YEAH, I MEAN ALL THIS BOOK READING WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER WITH MICROFICHE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICER IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO BREAK INTO EVERY PRIVATE LIBRARY IN TOWN, TOO.

GOD FORBID WE SIMPLY CHECKED OUT BOOKS LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE.



BUT THESE ARE NOT NORMAL LIBRARIES.

NO. YOU'VE GOTTEN THAT RIGHT.

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT OPAL CITY WOULD HAVE HAD SUCH A MIRE OF WEIRD BOOK COLLECTIONS.

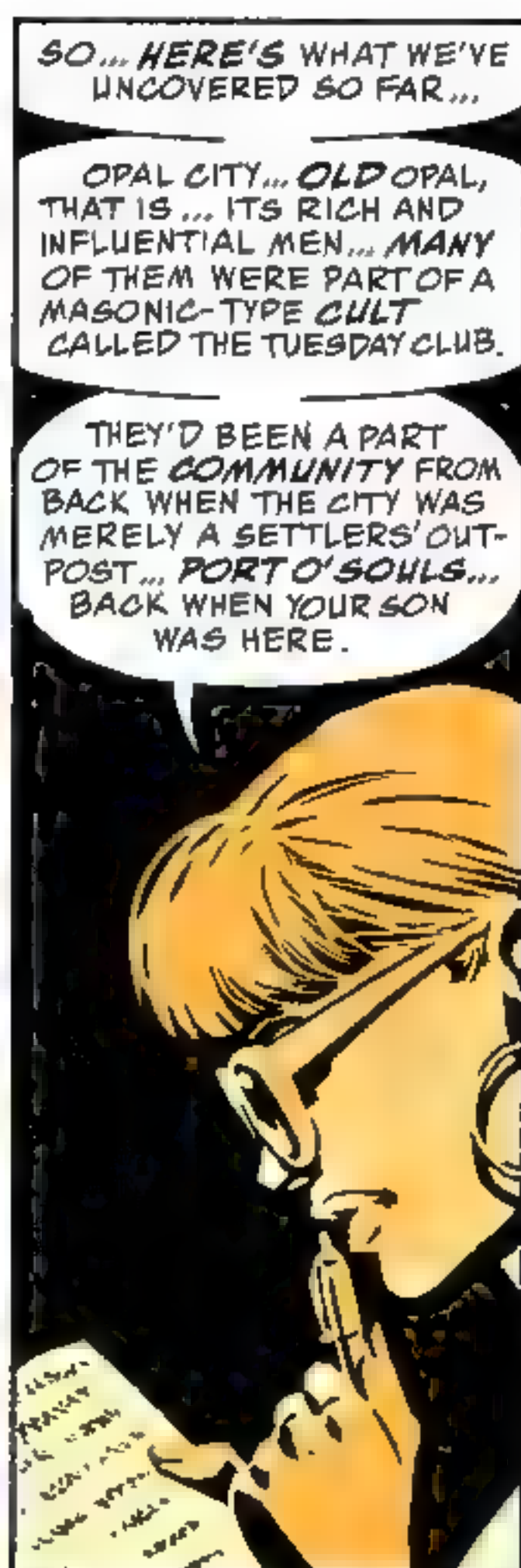


I WOULD.

THE LAST PERSON I ENLISTED TO HELP ME FIND MY INNOCENCE JOURNEYED HERE. HE SAW THE DARK SEEDS FROM WHICH THE LIGHT OF OPAL GREW.

DARK SEEDS? YOU MEAN THE TUESDAY CLUB?

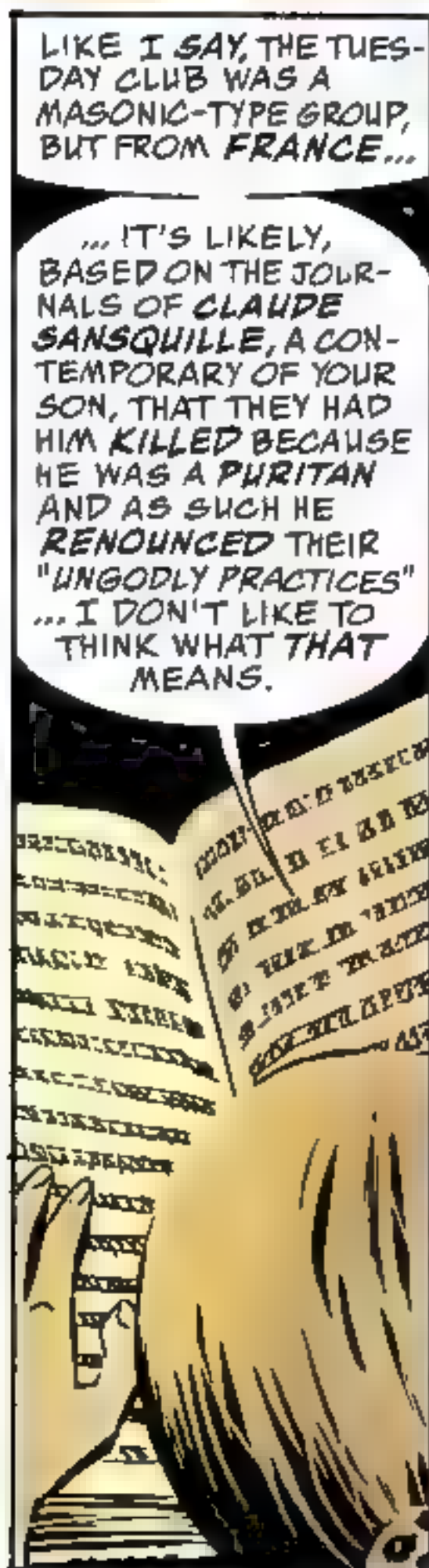
INDEED.



SO... HERE'S WHAT WE'VE UNCOVERED SO FAR...

OPAL CITY... OLD OPAL, THAT IS... ITS RICH AND INFLUENTIAL MEN... MANY OF THEM WERE PART OF A MASONIC-TYPE CULT CALLED THE TUESDAY CLUB.

THEY'D BEEN A PART OF THE COMMUNITY FROM BACK WHEN THE CITY WAS MERELY A SETTLERS' OUT-POST... PORT O' SOULS... BACK WHEN YOUR SON WAS HERE.



LIKE I SAY, THE TUESDAY CLUB WAS A MASONIC-TYPE GROUP, BUT FROM FRANCE...

... IT'S LIKELY, BASED ON THE JOURNALS OF CLAUDE SANSQUILLE, A CONTEMPORARY OF YOUR SON, THAT THEY HAD HIM KILLED BECAUSE HE WAS A PURITAN AND AS SUCH HE RENOUNCED THEIR "UNGODLY PRACTICES" ... I DON'T LIKE TO THINK WHAT THAT MEANS.



ANYWAY...

... THE TUESDAY CLUB WAS DISBANDED IN NOVEMBER, 1899, BY SCALPHUNTER, WHO AS THE CITY'S SHERIFF... AND I'M NOW QUOTING FROM THE DIARY OF JASON MAYVILLE, A RECENT CLUB INDUCTEE, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE WHO WOULD GO ON TO INFAMY...



"... MAYVILLE WROTE 'BRIAN SAVAGE SWEEPED THROUGH TOWN LIKE A VENGEFUL HOLY FIRE.'"



SO MANY OF THE TUESDAY CLUB OF 1899 WERE KILLED THAT THE SOCIETY FELL INTO DISARRAY.

HOWEVER, AS THE SURVIVORS FLED TOWN, THE CLUB'S RECORDS WERE DESTROYED OR TAKEN AWAY.

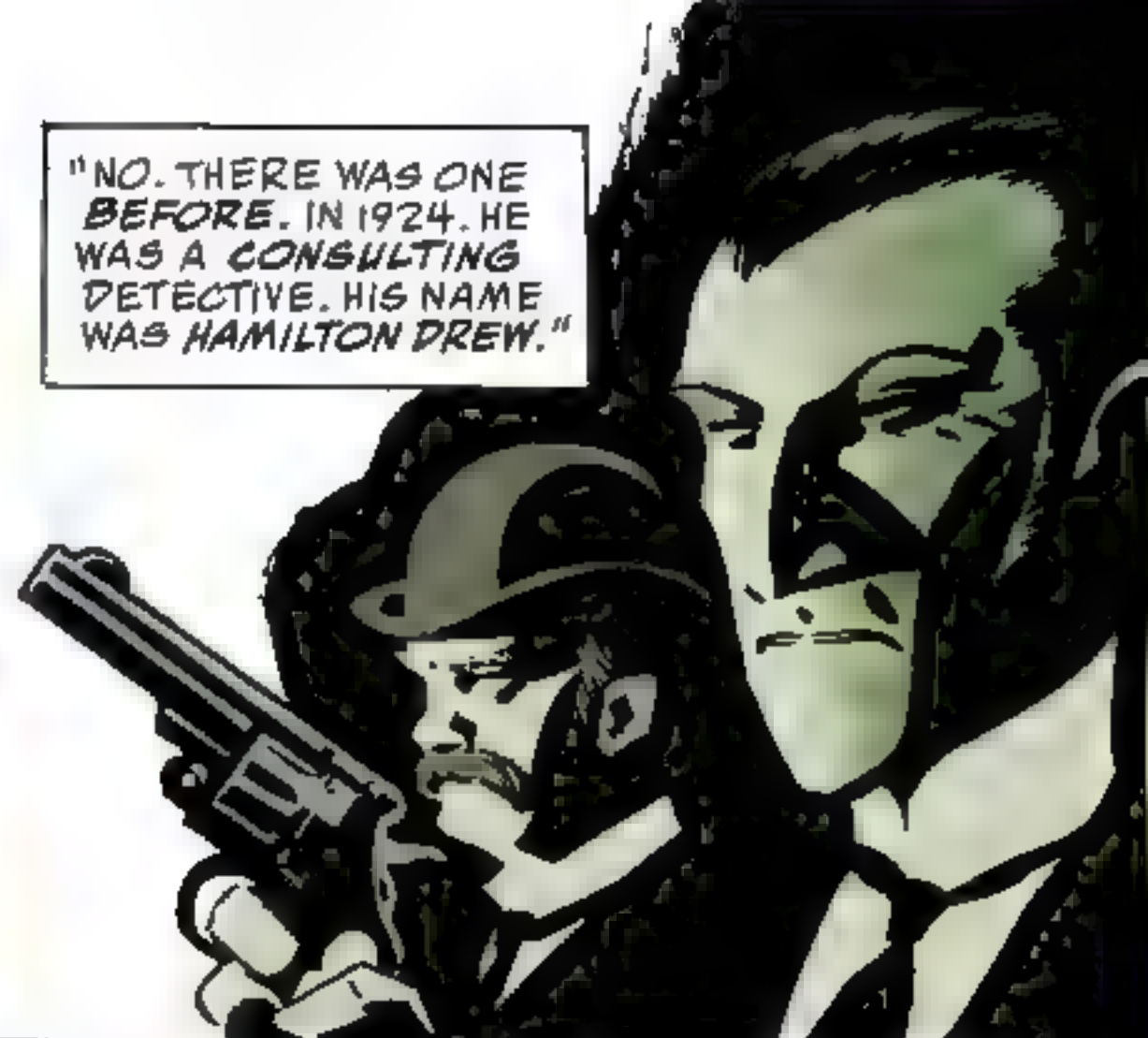




MY LAST INVESTIGATOR FOUND AS MUCH. HE FOUND MORE, IN FACT. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE UNCOVERED PROOF OF MY INNOCENCE.

BUT THEN HE VANISHED, LOST FOREVER, SO I'M TOLD.

WHEN WAS THIS? THIS OTHER INVESTIGATOR? I THOUGHT MY JACK WAS YOUR FIRST CHOICE.



"NO. THERE WAS ONE BEFORE. IN 1924. HE WAS A CONSULTING DETECTIVE. HIS NAME WAS HAMILTON DREW."



HE WAS FAR AWAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD, WHEN HE SENT WORD OF HIS DISCOVERY. ALAS, ACCORDING TO HIS COLLEAGUE, BEN LUDDY, DREW WAS KILLED IN A MANNER MOST VILE SOON AFTERWARDS.

I HELD BACK WORD OF DREW'S DEATH IN CASE IT STEMMED FROM HIS FINDING THE PROOF OF MY INNOCENCE. I FEARED JACK KNIGHT MIGHT BE DAUNTED BY SUCH RISKS.



AFTER EVERYTHING YOU KNOW JACK TO DO, YOU STILL FEEL THAT WAY?

I WAS SORRY WRONG ABOUT KNIGHT. I ADMIT AS MUCH.

FOR SURE, ME BUCKO. MY SWEETIE'S MADE OF TOUGHER STUFF THAN HE LOOKS. SO AM I, FOR THAT MATTER.



ANYWAY, I DON'T BELIEVE ALL THE EVIDENCE HAS LEFT OPAL.

IF THIS HAMILTON DREW GUY CLAIMED HE FOUND PROOF OF YOUR INNOCENCE, THEN SO CAN WE!



THIS LIBRARY... MOORPARK DUPRY'S... HIS GREAT-GRAND-FATHER WAS A TUESDAY CLUB MEMBER, SO THERE MUST BE SOMETHING HERE AMONG ALL THESE BOOKS.

DUPRY'S IN EUROPE FOR A MONTH, SO WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO--



NUH-UH, SUGAR. TIME'S UP!

WHAK!





WHO DARES!--

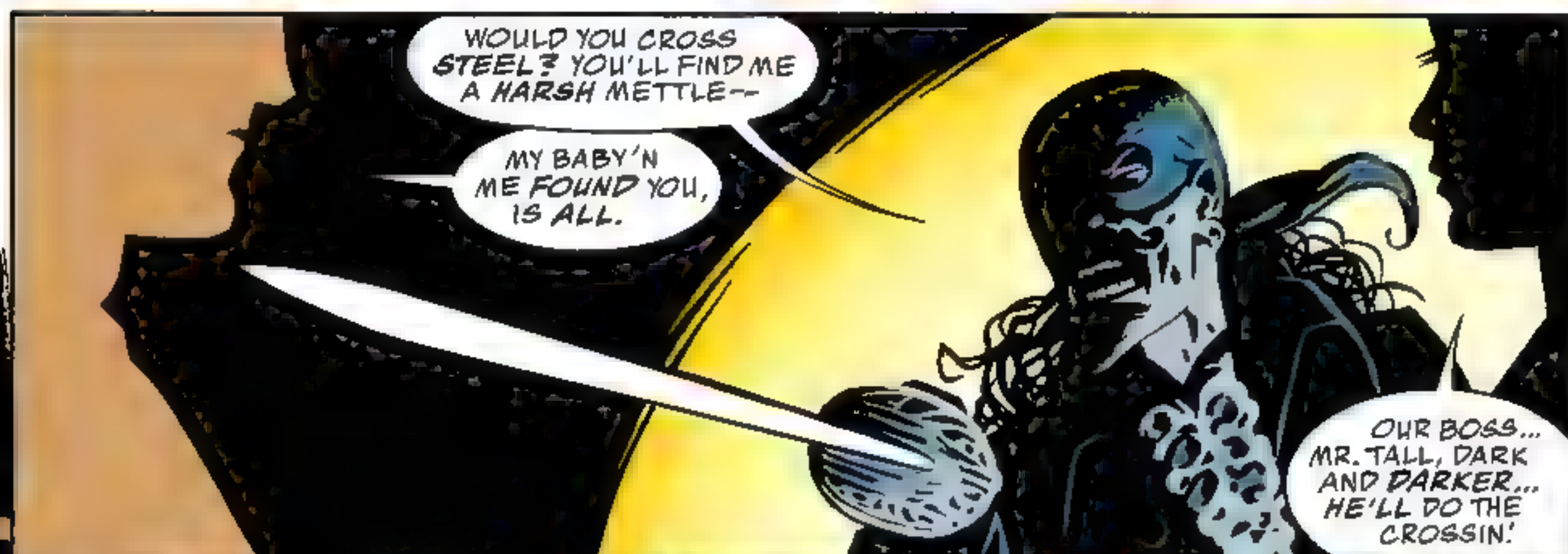
COUPLA DARING YOUNG DARERS IS WHO, MR. SPOOKY.

THE NAME'S AARON AND LUPE BODINE. PLEASD TO MEET YOU.

WHAT WOULD YOU WANT OF US?

HER?... COULD CARE LESS.

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND... OUR BOSS HAS BIG PLANS FOR YOUR GHOSTLY BEHIND.



WOULD YOU CROSS STEEL? YOU'LL FIND ME A HARSH METTLE--

MY BABY'N ME FOUND YOU, IS ALL.

OUR BOSS... MR. TALL, DARK AND DARKER... HE'LL DO THE CROSSIN'!



OH, INDEED.







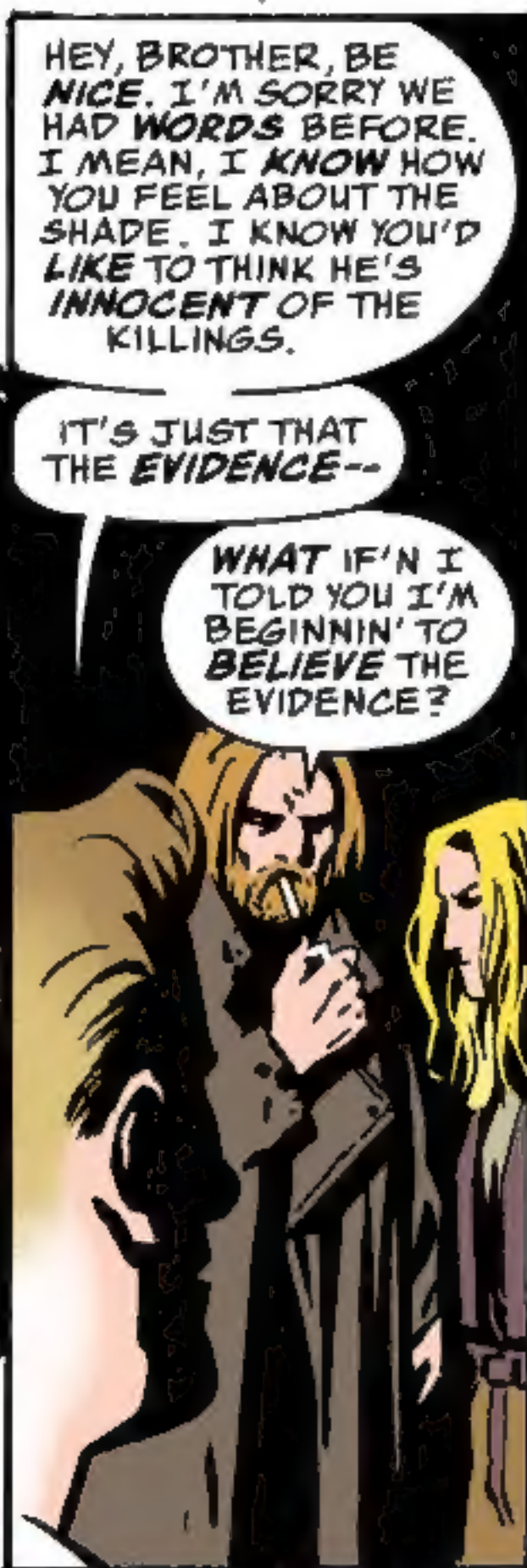


WHOA. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU TWO?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH IT.

THROUGH IT AND BACK, BARRY.

NOT THAT YOU'D KNOW NOTHIN' 'BOUT THAT.



HEY, BROTHER, BE NICE. I'M SORRY WE HAD WORDS BEFORE. I MEAN, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SHADE. I KNOW YOU'D LIKE TO THINK HE'S INNOCENT OF THE KILLINGS.

IT'S JUST THAT THE EVIDENCE--

WHAT IF 'N I TOLD YOU I'M BEGINNIN' TO BELIEVE THE EVIDENCE?



Huh?

EVERYWHERE ME 'N HOPE LOOK ... EVERY HALF WHISPER ...

... WHICH IS AS GOOD AS WE COULD GET ON THE STREET; NO ONE'S TALKING.

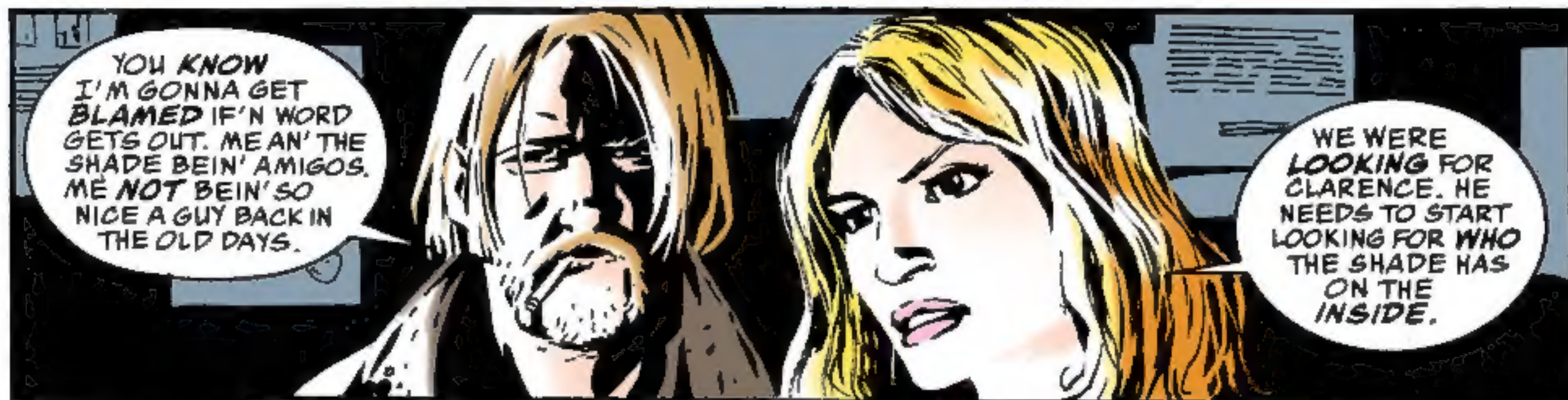
... IT ALL POINTS TO THE SHADE BEIN' BEHIND THIS ... 'N MORE. SOMETHIN' BIG.



THAT AIN'T THE WORST OF IT, NEITHER. WE HEARD TALK HE'S GOT SOMEONE ON THE FORCE--

A COP IN HIS POCKET, PASSING HIM INFORMATION.

WHOEVER IT IS, WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE RAT.



YOU KNOW I'M GONNA GET BLAMED IF 'N WORD GETS OUT. MEAN' THE SHADE BEIN' AMIGOS. ME NOT BEIN' SO NICE A GUY BACK IN THE OLD DAYS.

WE WERE LOOKING FOR CLARENCE. HE NEEDS TO START LOOKING FOR WHO THE SHADE HAS ON THE INSIDE.



CLARENCE WENT HOME TO SEE FAITH FOR A MINUTE. I WAS JUST FILING FOR HIM.

WELL, TELL HIM WHEN HE GETS BACK. WE'RE GOING OUT AGAIN. SEE WHAT ELSE WE CAN--

HEY, WHO ELSE YOU TOLD? YOU TOLD MASON?

NO.



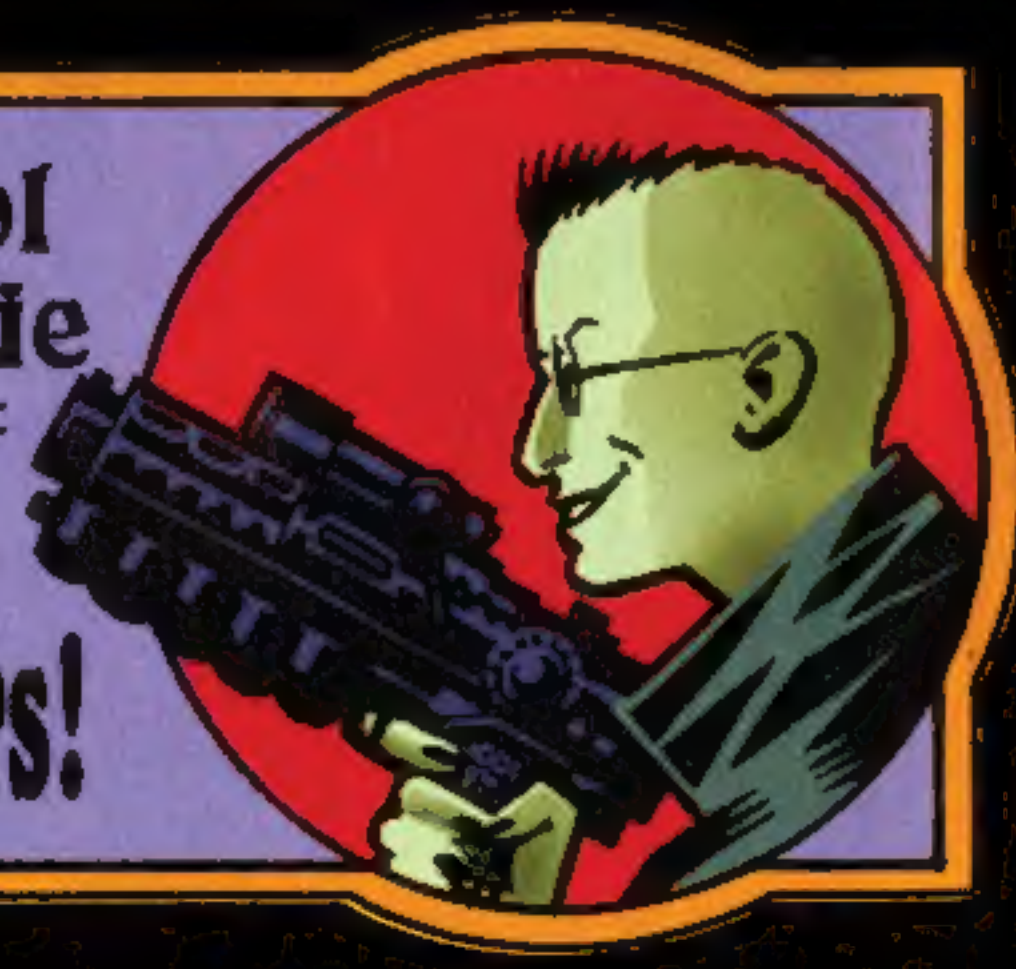
FPTTT  
FPTTT





GLAD  
TO HEAR  
IT.

**Grand Guignol  
Deuxième Partie**  
Back to the present  
and the aftermath  
of Opal's  
destruction in  
**Friends and Lovers!**





# Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT  
AWESOME  
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP